REMARKS

Claims 1 and 19 have been rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,920,248.

Applicant is submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer designating U.S. Patent No. 6,920,248 to obviate this basis for rejection. It is therefore respectfully submitted claims 1 and 19 are now patentable to Applicant.

Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to this claim as amended herein.

Specifically this claim now recites a computer-implemented program, and is submitted to define statutory subject matter that is patentable to Applicant.

Allowability of claims 12-18, that have been objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, is noted with appreciation. Dependent claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form in consideration of the Examiner's comments, and claims 13-18 now variously depend properly therefrom. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 12-18, together with claims 1, 19 and 20, are now patentable to Applicant.

Reconsideration and favorable disposition of this application are solicited.

Respectfully submitted, Nobuo Higaki

Dated: 3/24/08 By: /Albert C, Smith/

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